

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/525,731

Examiner

Terressa M. Boykin

Applicant(s)

GALEWSKI ET AL.

Art Unit

1711

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1-23-7.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20, 21-30
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

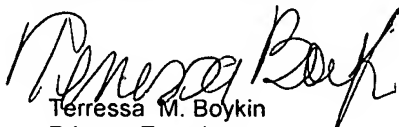
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Terressa M. Boykin
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1711

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

On page 18 line 2 of the Specification, the following has been inserted as line 2.

- Brief Description of Drawings-

The abstract, which contains more, a single page and/or more than the appropriate number of lines has been deleted and replaced by the following on a separate sheet attached hereto:

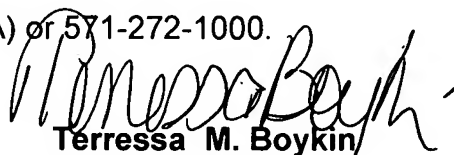
-- Abstract

The present invention relates to a process for stripping residual volatile compounds contained in a thermoplastic polymer. The process comprises (1) forming the polymer in the form of a melt flowing as a main stream, (2) forming a foaming agent in the form of one or more secondary liquid streams, (3) adding the secondary stream(s) to the main stream by spraying so as to divide each secondary liquid stream into several fractional streams and thus to form a polymer melt/foaming agent pre-mixture, (4) introducing the pre-mixture into a static mixer, then into an expansion chamber at reduced pressure so as to separate the polymer melt from the residual volatile compounds and from the foaming agent, and (5) withdrawing the polymer melt from the expansion chamber. The invention also relates to an apparatus for removing residual volatile compounds contained in a thermoplastic polymer. The apparatus comprises (i) a polymer melt feed line, (ii) an addition chamber into which the feed line runs and through which the polymer flows as a main stream, (iii) one or more lines for adding a foaming agent as one or more secondary liquid stream(s), which lines run into the addition chamber and have at their ends a spray device allowing each secondary liquid stream to be divided into several fractional streams, (iv) a static mixer having an inlet, connected to the addition chamber, and an outlet, and (v) an expansion chamber for separating the polymer melt from the residual volatile compounds and from the foaming agent, which chamber is connected to the outlet of the static mixer and is provided with a line for withdrawing the polymer melt and with a line for extracting the residual volatile compounds and the foaming agent. --

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Terressa M. Boykin whose telephone number is 571 272-1069. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 10-5:30 Friday (work at home).

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Terressa M. Boykin
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Art Unit 1711